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ABSTRACT

Forty-two community colleges and one four-year college responded to a survey requesting information about theatre programs. The colleges ranged in size from a low of 395 students to a high of 30,000. The results of the survey indicated that theatre courses were required of communication majors at only one college, and were electives at the remaining 41. Thirty-one stated that they offered theatre as a major or a concentration, while 11 had no theatre major. Theatre class size ranged from 4 to 46, with most in the 15 to 20 student range. Most theatre departments had one to three instructors on the faculty, while two departments offered no tenure for theatre faculty. Thirty-six departments indicated that the teaching load for full-time faculty was either 12 or 15 hours, 18 departments offered no release time for directing or technical work on theatrical production, and a very large number of departments reported receiving no compensation for directing or designing a production. A proscenium stage theatre was available on 34 campuses; 10 had thrust stages, and 8 had arena stages. Audience seating capacity ranged from 100 to 1,700. Most departments reported that the majority of their audience came from the local community. The number of productions varied from two per year to four per semester, while 16 colleges produced plays during the summer session. Publicity appeared to be the most neglected budget area. Curricula included international studies, music theatre, mime, children's theater, acting for television, puppetry, and theater history. (Tables of data are included.) (HTH)

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THEATRE PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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"Present Status of Theatre Programs in the Community College"

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Humanities

April 30, 1986

During the months of February and March, a questionnaire was sent to 125 community colleges throughout different geographical areas of the country. A sample questionnaire is included in this survey package. Forty-two community colleges and one four year college responded to the survey. Fifteen states were represented in the returning questionnaires.

The colleges ranged in size from a low of 395 students to a high of 30,000 students. Eighteen of the colleges indicated that they had a full-time student majority, while thirteen reported that they had a part-time student majority population. Unfortunately ten of the colleges failed to indicate what type of student body was present on their campus. In forty-one of the colleges theatre courses were an elective. One college indicated that theatre courses were a requirement for communication majors. Thirty-one community colleges stated that they had a theatre major or a theatre concentration. Eleven departments had no theatre majors. Class size for theatre classes ranged from four students to large lecture classes of 46. The largest concentration of classes fell within the fifteen to twenty students per class range.

The majority of the theatre departments had a faculty size of from 1 to 3 people in the department. Several colleges employed up to three part-time instructors. One theatre department had six part-time instructors while providing a very extensive theatre curriculum in a transfer and an applied theatre major. Two colleges indicated that the college had no tenure for their faculty. Only ten departments responded to the question about minority teachers on their staff. Thirty-six departments indicated that the teaching load for full-time faculty was either twelve or fifteen hours. The majority of the theatre department chairperson's teaching load was reduced to either twelve or nine hours. Eighteen departments had no release time for directing or technical work on theatrical productions. A very large number of departments reported that they received no compensation for directing or for designing a production. The range of compensation for compensation for directing was from \$300 to \$1,600. The range for designing a production was from \$200 up to \$1,500.

The proscenium stage theatre was represented on thirty-four college campuses, ten had thrust stages, and eight had arena stages. Audience seating capacity ranged from 100 seats up to 1700 seats. Most theatre departments reported that the majority of their audiences came from their local communities. The number

of theatrical productions presented during the academic year varied from one production each Fall and Spring up to as many as four presented by one college in the Spring semester. Sixteen community colleges produced plays during the summer. The budget for the theatre programs (production) started as low as \$180 up to \$100,000 for a very extensive theatre program. Nine theatre programs used guest directors or performers to supplement their academic staff. All of these professionals were paid for their services. One area of the budget which appears to be neglected by most theatre programs is the publicity area. Sixteen colleges spent between \$0.00 to \$500.

Section IV Curriculum is easier to read in the survey, therefore I am not summarizing each item in this area of the questionnaire. The academic courses being offered give the theatre student a rich variety of content areas to choose from in developing his theatrical program. Many of the faculty who responded indicated that they thought that the theatre program not only helped service the student academic needs, but also provided excellent publicity for the community colleges they represented.

I hope that this survey will be interesting, informative, and useful to you in the development of your theatre programs. I would like to thank all of those faculty members and administrators who took the time to complete this questionnaire.

The following community colleges responded to the survey:

Massachusetts

Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA
Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable, MA
Middlesex Community College, Burlington, MA
Mount Ida Community College (Junior College Division), Newton, MA
Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA

New York

Cayuga County Community College, Auburn, N. Y.
Corning Community College, Corning, N. Y.
Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Orange County Community College, Middletown, N. Y.
Schenectady County Community College, Schenectady, N. Y.
Suffolk County Community College, Selden, N. Y.

New Jersey

Camden County College, Blackwood, N. J.
Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, N. J.
Middlesex County College, Edison, N. J.
County College of Morris, Randolph, N. J.

Pennsylvania

Delaware County Community College, Media, PA
Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Maryland

Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD
Essex Community College, Baltimore County, MD
Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD
Villa Julie, Stevenson, MD

Virginia

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, Clifton Forge, VA
Northern Virginia Community College (Manassas Campus), Manassas, VA

Florida

Manatee Community College, Bradenton, FL
Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, Niceville, FL
Seminole Community College, Sanford, FL

Ohio

Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio

Colleges continued. . .

Michigan

Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI

Kansas

Colby Community College, Colby, KS
Kansas City Community College, Kansas City, KS

Iowa

South Campus--Southeastern Community College, Keokuk, Iowa

Illinois

Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL
Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL

Mississippi

Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, Perkinston, MS

Missouri

St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, St. Louis, MO
St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, MO

Texas

Kilgore College, Kilgore, Texas
Odessa College, Odessa, Texas

California

Fresno City College, Fresno, CA
Los Angeles Valley College, Van Nuys, CA
Modesto Junior College, Modesto, CA
Oxnard College, Oxnard, CA

**Bradford College (4 year college), Bradford, MA

The source of names and addresses of the colleges selected for this survey were taken from:

Directory of Theatre Programs-85
Compiled by The Association for Communication Administration

American Theatre Association 1985 Directory

Speech Communication Directory--1986

COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEATRE PROGRAM SURVEY--Spring 1986

On the following pages you will find a summary of the survey that was conducted during the Spring of 1986. Forty-two community and junior colleges responded to the questionnaire.

I. Students

A. Total college enrollment:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Number of colleges</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Number of colleges</u>
395 - 1,000	4	7,001 - 8,000	2
1,001 - 1,500	2	8,001 - 9,000	3
1,501 - 2,000	1	9,001 - 10,000	3
2,001 - 2,500	2	10,001 - 11,000	2
2,501 - 3,000	1	11,001 - 12,000	<u>1</u>
3,001 - 3,500	3	12,001 - 14,000	1
3,501 - 4,000	2	14,001 - 16,000	2
4,001 - 5,000	3	16,001 - 20,000	1
5,001 - 6,000	3	20,001 - 30,000	3
6,001 - 7,000	2	Low-- 395 High-- 30,000	

B. Student population:

Full-Time Student Majority 18

Ten colleges did not respond to this item.

Part-Time Student Majority 13

C. Theatre is . . .required of all students 1*

an elective 41

*Communication Major requires theatre course

D. Total number of theatre majors:

0 - 4 6 5 - 10 8 11 -20 7 21 -30 6 31- 45 2

46 - 60 1 61 - 200 1 11 had no majors.

E. Class size:

<u>Intro to Theatre</u>				<u>Acting</u>		<u>Technical</u>		<u>Others</u>	
4 - 10	<u>4</u>	26 - 30	<u>5</u>	3 - 10	<u>4</u>	5 - 10	<u>7</u>	4 - 10	<u>6</u>
11 - 15	<u>6</u>	31 - 45	<u>3</u>	11 - 20	<u>23</u>	11 - 20	<u>16</u>	11 - 20	<u>14</u>
16 - 20	<u>11</u>	46 -above	<u>1</u>	21 - 30	<u>8</u>	21 - 45	<u>4</u>	21 - 35	<u>5</u>
21 - 25	<u>8</u>			31 - 45	<u>3</u>			36 - 45	<u>1</u>

II. Faculty

A.	<u>Full-Time--Range</u>	<u>Part-Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Asst. Prof.</u>	<u>Assoc.Prof.</u>
	0 - ½ <u>5</u>	0 - 3 <u>35</u>	1 - 3 <u>17</u>	1 - 3 <u>13</u>	1 - 3 <u>14</u>
	1--- <u>18</u>	4 - 10 <u>3</u>	4 -10 <u>1</u>	<u>Professor</u>	
	2--- <u>9</u>			1 - 5 <u>10</u>	
	3--- <u>5</u>			<u>Minority</u>	
	4--- <u>1</u>	<u>Tenured **</u>		10 colleges have minority teachers	
	5 - 10 <u>2</u>	1 - 5 <u>17</u>			
	11-16 <u>1</u>	6 -16 <u>1</u>			
		** 2 colleges have no tenure			

B. <u>Teaching Load for Full-time Faculty</u>	<u>Teaching Load for Chairperson</u>
6 hours <u>1</u> per semester	6 hours <u>5</u> per semester
12 hours <u>10</u> per semester	9 hours <u>7</u> per semester
15 hours <u>26</u> per semester	12 hours <u>11</u> per semester
18 hours <u>1</u> per semester	15 hours <u>5</u> per semester

C. Release Time policy for production work

Directing

None 18 1 hour 1 3 hours 10 4- 7 hours 5

C. Release Time Policy for production work (continued)

Designers (Lights, Sets, Costumes)

None 24 1½ hours 1 3 hours 11 4 - 7 hours 4

D. Compensation for:

Directing

None 25

\$300 1 \$500 1 \$925 1 \$1,000 5 \$1,500 1

\$1,600 1

Designing

None 29

\$200 1 \$500 1 \$600 1 \$925 1 \$1,000 2

\$1,500 1

III. Theatre Facilities and Budget

A. Type of Stage

proscenium 34 Thrust 10 arena 8 other 2 Black Box

B. Audience . . . house capacity

proscenium:

100 - 200 7 201 - 300 3 301 - 400 1 401 - 500 5

501 - 600 4 601 - 700 1 701 - 800 3 801 - 822 2 1700 1

arena

80 - 200 3 201 - 300 1 301 - 400 2 401 - 510 5

thrust

others

100 - 200 8 510 1 75 - 150 3

% students --- % community

2% - 98% 1 15% - 85% 2 20% - 80% 3 25% - 75% 6

B. Audience. . . %students --- % community (continued)

30% - 70%	<u>5</u>	35% - 65%	<u>1</u>	40% - 60%	<u>4</u>	50% - 50%	<u>7</u>
60% - 40%	<u>2</u>	65% - 35%	<u>1</u>	80% - 20%	<u>1</u>	100% - 00%	<u>1</u>

C. Number of Productions per year:

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Straight Plays</u>	<u>Musicals</u>
1 -- <u>17</u>	1 -- <u>11</u>	1 -- <u>10</u>	1 - <u>4</u>	1 - <u>19</u>
2 -- <u>13</u>	2 -- <u>17</u>	2 -- <u>1</u>	2 - <u>8</u>	2 - <u>3</u>
3 -- <u>4</u>	3 -- <u>5</u>	3 -- <u>1</u>	3 - <u>4</u>	
	4 -- <u>1</u>	4 -- <u>2</u>	4 - <u>2</u>	<u>Dinner Theatre</u>
		6 -- <u>1</u>	5 - <u>3</u>	1 - <u>1</u>
		8 -- <u>1</u>	6 - <u>2</u>	2 - <u>1</u>
			7-9 - <u>3</u>	3 - <u>1</u>

Others

Children's Musical
 Children's play
 Deaf Theatre
 Children's Touring Show
 Variety Show
 Student written one-acts
 Reader's Theatre
 T. V. Drama Workshop

D. Budget

Total per year:

\$180 - 1,000	<u>3</u>	\$1,001 - 2,000	<u>1</u>	\$2,001 - 3,000	<u>4</u>
\$3,000 - 4,000	<u>2</u>	\$4,001 - 5,000	<u>4</u>	\$5,001 - 7,000	<u>2</u>
\$7,001 -10,000	<u>5</u>	\$10,001 - 14,000	<u>3</u>	\$14,001 -20,000	<u>3</u>
\$20,001 -35,000	<u>1</u>	\$35,001 - 50,000	<u>4</u>	\$100,000	<u>1</u>

Source of Theatre Budget:

District Budget, College General Fund, Division or Department, Student Association,
 and Box Office Sales.

D. Budget (continued)

Cost per Show:

\$200 - 1,000	<u>6</u>	\$1,001 - 2,000	<u>9</u>	\$2,001 - 4,000	<u>10</u>
\$4,001 - 7,000	<u>3</u>	\$7,001 - 10,000	<u>3</u>		

Guest Director or Artist:

\$250 - 1,000	<u>5</u>	\$1,001 - 2,500	<u>2</u>	\$2,501 - 3,200	<u>2</u>
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Publicity:

\$0.00 - 500	<u>16</u>	\$501 - 1,500	<u>3</u>	\$1,501 - 2,500	<u>2</u>
\$2,501 - 3,000	<u>3</u>	\$3,001 - 5,000	<u>1</u>		

Technical/Design:

This position varied from volunteer to \$2,500 for salary; up to \$30,00 per year for materials. Many of these position are full-time faculty appointments.

IV. Curriculum

A. New Courses Added to departments:

International Studies in Theatre-London - 2	1970's
Rehearsal and Performance - 2	1970's
Mime - 2	1970's
Theatre Management - 2	1980's
American Music Theatre -2	1980's
Children's Theatre 4	1970's
Acting for Television	1980's
Styles of Acting	1980's
Festival Theatre Workshop (Summer)	1980's
Auditioning - 2	1980's
Dance and Movement	1970's
Improvisation	1970's
New York City Theatre Tour	1980's
Theatre Combat	1970's
Acting Shakespeare	1970's
Puppets and Puppetry	1980's

B. List any courses that are not transferrable to other four year colleges/ universities in your state:

The only courses that appeared to have difficulty transferring to other institutions of higher education are the "Practicum or Performance" courses.

C. Courses offered at community colleges:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Introduction to Theatre (38) | 6. Set Design (14) |
| 2. Introduction to Acting (38) | 7. Costume Design (10) |
| 3. Advance Acting (26) | 8. Stage Makeup (15) |
| 4. Play Production (22) | 9. Directing (17) |
| 5. Technical Theatre (28) | 10. Theatre History (18) |

Other courses offered: Children's Theatre (5), Creative Drama (5), Practicum in acting or technical (5), Literature of Theatre (3), Movement and Dance (3), Theatre Workshop (3), Performance (3), Television Production (2), Independent Study (2), Film Class (2), Acting for T. V. (1), Musical Theatre (1), Sound Tech (1), Puppetry (1), Combined Stage Makeup and Costumes (1), Script Analysis (1), Story Telling (1), Reader's Theatre (2), Improvisation (1), Shakespeare Workshop (1), London Theatre Tour (1), and New York Theatre Tour (1).

D. What innovative/outreach types of theatre programs have you developed?

1. Director and Technical Director work with area high schools and community theatres for small stipends. Invite local community talent to work on campus productions.
2. Perform plays for high school students (special performances) and tour with children's theatre.
3. Dinner Theatre production are extremely popular where ever they are presented.
4. Host annual Shakespeare Festival during the summer, last six weeks and produce three productions.
5. Produce play for Deaf people, using deaf actors who sign and in some cases are voiced.
6. Theatre Arts Series, bring in professional artist to conduct Spring workshops, Delta Psi Omega Honory Fraternity Scholarship to income high schoo students. Also developed a subscriber's package for theatre program.

D. What innovative/outreach types of theatre programs . . . developed?

7. Produce new scripts by student playwrights. Produce many Black Theatre plays--example: "Colored Girls. . .," "Home," integrated "Charlie Brown," and "Who's Affraid of Virginia Woolf."
8. Present Summer Theatre Camp, using college students as counselors.
9. Program for gifted and talented junior high school students. Program of plays produced for prisoners. Theatre trips to New York City and Europe open to the community.
10. Bring Equity actors to share performing in theatre productions. Present plays for elderly citizens on campus and in homes.
11. Develop internship and field work connected with the Arts and Humanities.
12. Cooperative Education courses in theatre production and television.
13. Work with law enforcement departments to develop improvisational scenes and films to be used in training program
14. Special drama day workshops for local high school, brings students to college.
15. Develop a program for the disabled student in acting. Work primarily with deaf and wheel chair disabled on campus and mentally retarded off campus.

E. Are these programs working? What benefit have they brought the college/community?

All of those who responded to this question indicated that they innovative or outreach programs are bring the college great public relations, attention from the community, growth in student population both in classes and attendance at theatrical productions. The great benefit is the cooperation that develops between the local community and the community college.

Other Comments:

Many of the respondents indicated that the major problem today is the cutback in funding for the college and often the theatre program. Other frequent comment is about the underbudgeted programs at their colleges. Generally those who responded to this survey were optimistic about their theatre programs.

I would like to thank all of those faculty members and administrators who took the time to respond to this survey. I hope that the information gathered will be helpful in making the community college theatre a vibrant force in their communities.

(11)

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